An Irreverently Titled Almanac

Everything You Want to Know

By DENNIS ESKOW

NEW YORK (AP) — The title "The Assassination Please Almanac" is not the most reverent one that could have been chosen for an expansive compendium of facts surrounding the killing of President John F. Kennedy in 1963.

Then again, the creator of this bizarre almanac has never claimed to be reverent.

He's Tom Miller, child of the '60s, underground writer, sometimes satirist and onetime center of a First Amendment controversy. His book, he says, is for everyone — above-and-underground.

Miller's almanac lists pertinent and impertinent facts concerning Kennedy's death and the scores of conspiracy theories that have followed it.

"The conspiracy theories are part of American proletariat folk lore," Miller said in a telephone interview from his home in Tucson.

The paperback, released last month by the Henry Regnery Co., Chicago, is 274 pages, mostly of chronological lists garnished with quotations from the famous and infamous and with editorial cartoons.

Nothing, it seems, is spared the reader. In 1930, the list tells us, "Jack Ruby was jailed for two days, the result of an altercation." We learn the date the Lee Harvey Oswald started classes at a Lutheran school in the Bronx, N.Y., and even about the progress of Fidel Castro as his revolution gathered steam.

"I took tens of thousands of facts on little three-by-five cards and carefully screened them," said Miller, 30, who wound up with about 8,000 facts he considered worth listing.

Most of the facts thrown out were those that came from a single source and could not be corroborated by another.

"You can't believe how many unexplained death theories their are," said Miller. "Scores of people believe that scores of other people were rubbed out because of their connection with the assassination. But, forget it, you can only document a handful of questionable deaths."

'Conspiracy theories are part of American proletariat folklore'

One such death, he says, is the apparent suicide of George de Mohrenschildt in Palm Beach, Fla., last March 30, just hours after an investigator for the House Committee on Assassinations attempted to interview him. De Mohrenschildt had been a friend of Oswald and was identified by a congressional aide as a key witness in the assassination investigation.

Miller says the house panel will have to look into that death as well as Kennedy's and Oswald's.

Miller says his research for the book has reinforced his belief that there was a conspiracy in the Kennedy shooting, although "it's going to take some time to establish who the conspirators could have been — if it can ever be established."

That won't happen, Miller says, unless the Assassinations Committee gets funded for about three or four more years.

Miller, a native of Washingon, D.C., has lived in Tucson since 1969. He has worked for the granddaddy of underground satirical journals, The Realist. He has also written for Crawdaddy, Rolling Stone, dozens of underground journals and in recent years for Esquire and Harpers.

He expects to write another book soon, either about life on the Mexican-U.S. border or about mercenary soldiers.

If things are falling into place for him now, it's a far cry from the way they were in 1971, when a

About JFK Death and More

series of federal grand juries set up by the now-defunct Internal Security Division of the Justice Department was delving into the movements of student radicals and liberals.

Miller was subpoenaed to testify in Tucson in August 1971, but refused to talk to the grand jury about anything having to do with the undergound based on the fact that it was his reportorial beat. Miller moved to have the subpoena quashed on grounds that a reporter is protected under the First Amendment.

U.S. District Court Judge William Frey in Tucson supported Miller's contention that he was protected from testifying. The Justice Department appealed to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals which ruled in Miller's favor in Dec., 1972.